

October 2019



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Hello,

Autumn has arrived, and with it comes the lead-up to what is traditionally the busiest time of year for the NHS.

But as preparations for winter begin to take shape – in much the same way they always do at the beginning of October – this year also sees the NHS getting ready for the UK's departure from the European Union, which – at the time of writing – is due to take place on Thursday 31 October.

Many people reading this may have concerns about Brexit, particularly about how it might affect medicines coming into the country from the EU, but the government has insisted that its contingency plans will help to keep things as close to normal as possible.

Suppliers of medicines have been instructed to ensure their warehouses have around six weeks' worth of additional stock to help counterbalance any initial disruption that may occur in the days following 31 October.

Additionally, and on top of the extra cargo space that has already been reserved on cross-Channel ferries post-Brexit, the government has put measures in place to prevent incoming medicines from being delayed during custom checks at the UK border.

These initiatives, along with the many others happening behind the scenes, have been designed to not only minimise disruption but also to keep patients reassured that they should be able to continue collecting their prescriptions in the usual way.

On the off-chance that stocks of a specific medicine do begin to run low, something which does happen from time to time in the NHS, patients will be offered an appropriate alternative until stocks have replenished.

While this may be inconvenient, patients are encouraged not to ask for more medicine than normal as this could put additional pressure on the availability of drugs for other people.

The important thing to remember is that, throughout this transitional period, no patient should ever be left with no form of treatment for the condition he or she is currently managing.

More information about how the NHS is preparing for Brexit, as well as advice and information for patients, can be found by visiting www.nhs.uk.

Until next time, stay healthy and happy!

Hospital trust to take on two Swindon GP practices

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is to take on the management of two Swindon GP practices previously involved with the Integral Medical Holdings Group (IMH).

Moredon Medical Centre and Abbey Meads Medical Group are expected to transfer at the end of November.

The Trust, which also provides acute services at the Great Western Hospital, will now focus on ensuring there is a smooth handover from the previous provider, before starting to work on making improvements for both patients and staff.

Kevin McNamara, the Trust's acting Chief Executive, said: "I am confident that, in time, we will transform the experience of the local communities who rely on these services."

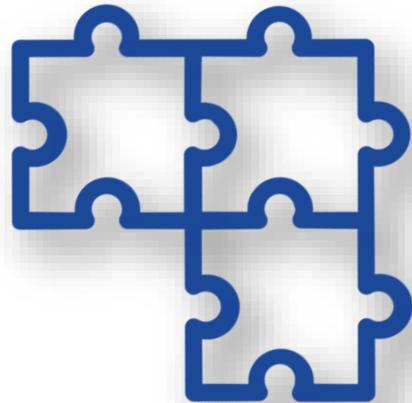


Three CCGs move forward with merger plans

The three Clinical Commissioning Groups of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire are moving forward with plans to become a single organisation after GPs in the region voted in favour of the venture.

Voting took place throughout last month and, following the count and subsequent result on Thursday 18 September, a formal merger application will now be submitted to NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Should the application be approved, the three CCGs will look to become one on Wednesday 1 April.

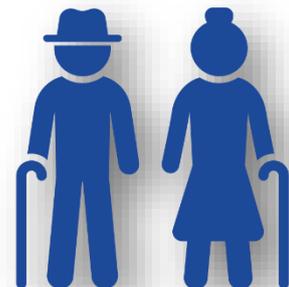


Police launch new tool to help older people at risk of going missing

Families of older people with dementia are being encouraged to add their loved-one's personal details to a new booklet that can be referred to by the police should they ever go missing.

Wiltshire Police launched the Herbert Protocol last month.

[Click here](#) to download a copy.



Pioneering new approach to caring for older patients

Essential funding from Swindon CCG has ensured that a pioneering new approach to caring for older people in hospital is able to continue.

Following a successful pilot project, the Great Western Hospital has made its new older person's care pathway a permanent feature in both the Emergency Department and Linnet Acute Medical Unit.

Under the new way of working, older patients are now seen by a dedicated geriatrician much quicker than before.

Previously, some patients had waited up to three days for an assessment by a specialist.

Stacey Cotter, Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner, said "We're focusing on the things we know will make a difference, including working more closely with social care, having a consultant geriatrician on hand and ensuring that patients receive care on a specialist older person's ward."



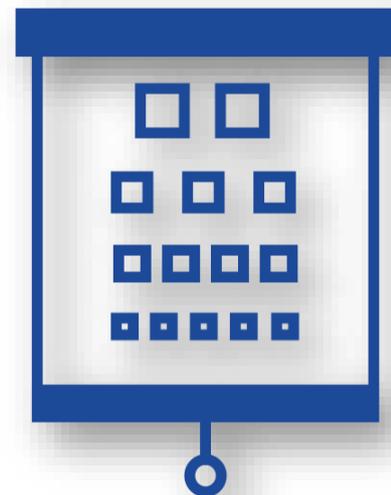
Views and opinions of eye patients sought

NHS England has invited people with experience of receiving eye treatment in hospital to share their views and opinions in an online survey.

EyesWise is a project that will use patient feedback to implement widespread improvements, such as reducing the waiting times for people needing ophthalmology treatment.

The aim of the online survey is to provide experts with real patient insight, including how well clinics are run and the quality of communication from healthcare professionals.

[Click here](#) to take part in the survey or, to speak to somebody direct, call 0113 824 8672.



Patient and Public Engagement Forum

The next meeting of the CCG's Patient and Public Engagement Forum will take place on Thursday 24 October at 12.30pm.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

Governing Body

The next meeting of Swindon CCG's Governing Body will take place on Thursday 24 October at 9am.

Minutes and papers of previous meetings can be found by [clicking here](#).

If you would like to attend, please send an email to communications@swindonccg.nhs.uk.

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